The Consequences of Convictions in Occupational and Professional Licensing Cases

Sean Gavin, Administrative Law Judge Jennifer Mouzis, Criminal Defense Attorney









Agenda +Licensing Entities

- +Authority to Deny or Discipline Licenses for Convictions
- +Notification Requirement
- +What it means for a conviction to be "substantially related"
- +Rehabilitation
- +Expungement

Occupational and licensing entities exist for the purpose of public protection. (*See generally*, Bus. & Prof. Code, § 101.6.)

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Part of protecting the public includes regulating licensees through disciplinary actions.

For example, licensing entities "provide a means for redress of grievances by investigating allegations of unprofessional conduct, incompetence, fraudulent action, or unlawful activity brought to their attention by members of the public and institute disciplinary action against persons licensed or registered under the provisions of this code when such action is warranted." (*Ibid.*)

The Department of Consumer Affairs The Department of Real Estate The Department of Insurance

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The Department of Social Services

Community and Child Care Facilities: Adult Day Programs, Group Homes, Adult Residential Facilities, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, and Family Day Care Homes

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Includes teachers and administrators

The Department of Consumer Affairs

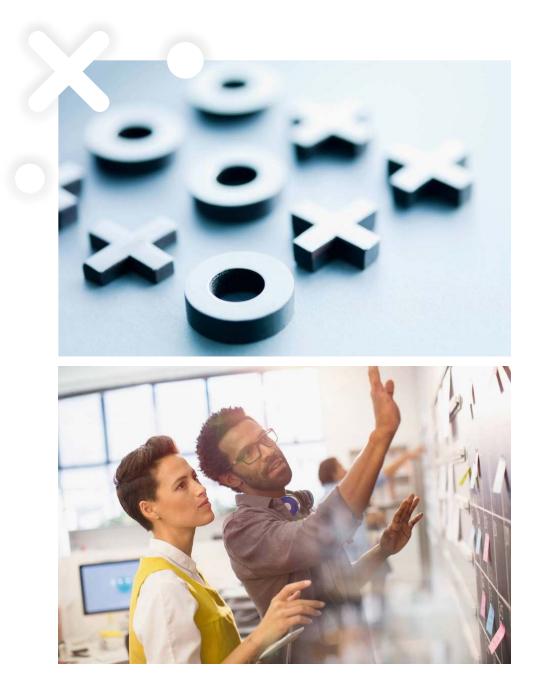


The Dental Board of California The California State Board of Pharmacy The California Architects Board The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology The Bureau of Household Goods and Services The State Athletic Commission The Court Reporters Board of California The Landscape Architects Technical Committee The Acupuncture Board The Physical Therapy Board of California The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board The Osteopathic Medical Board of California The California Board of Naturopathic Medicine The Structural Pest Control Board

The Department of Consumer Affairs

The Medical Board of California The California State Board of Optometry The Veterinary Medical Board The California Board of Accountancy The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists The Contractors State License Board The Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education The Board of Behavioral Sciences The Board of Registered Nursing The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau The Bureau of Security and Investigative Services The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians The Division of Investigation The Bureau of Automotive Repair The Respiratory Care Board of California The Board of Psychology The Podiatric Medical Board of California The Arbitration Review Program The Physician Assistant Board The California Board of Occupational Therapy The Professional Fiduciaries Bureau The Dental Hygiene Board of California The Board of Chiropractic Examiners The Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers "Any other boards, offices, or officers subject to its jurisdiction by law." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 101.)

CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTIONS IN LICENSING CASES



Authority to Deny or Discipline Licenses Based on Convictions

Boards and Bureaus within the Department of Consumer Affairs

License Denial

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Failure to Disclose Convictions

Within the Business and Professions Code, the various Boards and Bureaus have dedicated Chapters.

Business and Professions Code - BPC

GENERAL PROVISIONS

DIVISION 1. DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS [100 - 472.5]

DIVISION 1.5. DENIAL, SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LICENSES [475 - 499]

DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]

DIVISION 3. PROFESSIONS AND VOCATIONS GENERALLY [5000 - 9998.11]

DIVISION 4. REAL ESTATE [10000 - 11506]

DIVISION 5. WEIGHTS AND MEASURES [12001 - 13800]

DIVISION 6. BUSINESS RIGHTS [14000 - 14704]

DIVISION 7. GENERAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS [16000 - 18001]

DIVISION 8. SPECIAL BUSINESS REGULATIONS [18400 - 22949.85]

DIVISION 8.5. STOP TOBACCO ACCESS TO KIDS ENFORCEMENT ACT [22950 - 22964]

DIVISION 8.6. CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS LICENSING ACT OF 2003 [22970 - 22991]

DIVISION 9. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES [23000 - 25762]

DIVISION 10. Cannabis [26000 - 26325]

CONSEQUENCES OF CONVICTIONS IN LICENSING CASES

Expand all

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The Boards and Bureaus are also governed by regulations, usually found in Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations

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"As used in section 4982 of the code, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to: (g) Failure to report to the board within 30 days any of the following: (1) A conviction of any felony or misdemeanor, which is not subject to Health & Safety Code sections 11357(b), (c), (d), (e) or 11360(b). A conviction includes any verdict of guilty, or plea of guilty or no contest." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 1845, subd. (g)(1).)

"[A] statute constitutionally can prohibit an individual from practicing a lawful profession only for reasons related to his or her fitness or competence to practice that profession." (Hughes v. Bd. Of Architectural Examiners (1998) 17 Cal.4th 763, 788.)

"A board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, **if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications**, **functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued**." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 490, subd. (a) [emphasis supplied].)

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"Criteria for determining whether a crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession the board regulates shall include all of the following:

- (A) The nature and gravity of the offense.
- (B) The number of years elapsed since the date of the offense.
- (C) The nature and duties of the profession."

(Bus. & Prof. Code, § 493, subd. (b)(1).)

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For registered nurses,

"... a crime, professional misconduct, or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a person holding a license or certificate under the Nursing Practice Act (Chapter 6 of Division 2 of the code), if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a person holding a license or certificate to perform the functions authorized and/or mandated by the license or certificate, or in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare."

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For licensed contractors, substantially related crimes include those:

"involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or theft with the intent to substantially benefit oneself or another or to substantially harm another";

"involving physical violence against persons"; or

"that indicate a substantial or repeated disregard for the health, safety, or welfare of the public."

(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 868, subd. (c)(3)-(5).)

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Disturbing the peace is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a licensed alarm company qualified manager. (*Lone Star Security & Video, Inc., v. Bureau of Security & Investigative Services* (2009) 176 Cal.App.4th 1249, 1257-1258.)





"A board shall not deny a license based in whole or in part on a conviction without considering evidence of rehabilitation submitted by an applicant." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 481, subd. (c).)

"Rehabilitation ... is a 'state of mind' and the law looks with favor upon rewarding with the opportunity to serve, one who has achieved 'reformation and regeneration."" (*Pacheco v. State Bar* (1987) 43 Cal.3d 1041, 1058.)



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License discipline typically consists of:

- Public reproval;

- Stayed revocation with probationary terms;
- Suspension; or
- Revocation

The level of discipline will depend on rehabilitation.

Most licensing entities maintain specific published criteria to evaluate the rehabilitation of licensees convicted of substantially related crimes.

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For example, the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians maintains the following list:

(1) Nature and gravity of the crime(s), professional misconduct, or act(s) under consideration.

(2) Actual or potential harm to the public.

(3) Actual or potential harm to any patient.

(4) Overall disciplinary record.

(5) Overall criminal actions taken by any federal, state or local agency or court.

(6) Prior warnings on record or prior remediation.

(7) Number and/or variety of current violations.

(8) Mitigation evidence.

(9) In case of a criminal conviction, compliance with terms of sentence and/or court-ordered probation.

(10) Time passed since the crime(s), professional misconduct, or act(s) occurred.

(11) If applicable, evidence of proceedings to dismiss a conviction pursuant to Penal Code section 1203.4.

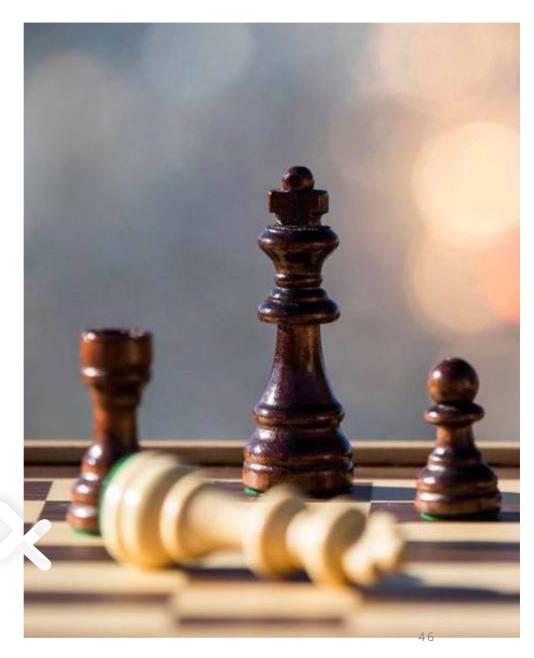
(12) Cooperation with the Board and other law enforcement or regulatory agencies.

(13) Other rehabilitation evidence (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 16, § 2522, subd. (b).)

Expungement

- + Effect on license applicants
- + Effect on licensees
- + Other post-judgement relief:

Certificates of Rehabilitation and Clemency or Pardon



Expungement: Applicable Statutes

Penal Code Section
1203.4
1203.4a
1203.41
1203.42
1203.425

<u>Applicability</u>

Sentence completed/probation ended

Misdemeanors with no probation/infractions Felony convictions Sentences before Penal Code § 1170, subd. (h) DOJ monthly review/automatic conviction relief

Expungement

Penal Code § 1203.4, subdivision (a) provides for relief if:

- 1. Probation is over, and
- 2. No pending charges

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When petition is successful, defendant can:

Withdraw their guilty or no contest plea, or have their verdict set aside;

Request that the Court dismiss the accusation or information; and

"Be released from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense of which they have been convicted." (*Id.*, subd. (a)(1).)

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- a. has fulfilled the conditions of probation for the entire period thereof;
- b. has been discharged from probation prior to the termination of the period thereof;
- c. should be granted relief in the interests of justice. (Please note: You must explain why granting a dismissal would be in the interests of justice. You may complete and attach the Attached Declaration (form MC-031) or submit other relevant documents.)
- 3 Misdemeanor or infraction with sentence other than probation (Pen Code & 1203 4a)

License Applicants (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 480)

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An expungement order "order does not relieve [probationers] of the obligation to disclose the conviction in response to any direct question contained in any questionnaire or application . . . for licensure by any state or local agency" (Pen. Code, § 1203.4, subd. (a)(1).)

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Licensees (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 490)

"An action that a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code." (*Id.*, subd. (c).)

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Other Post-Judgement Relief

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a person shall not be denied a license on the basis that the person has been convicted of a crime, or on the basis of acts underlying a conviction for a crime, if that person has obtained **a certificate of rehabilitation** under Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code, has been granted **clemency or a pardon by a state or federal executive**, or has made a showing of rehabilitation pursuant to Section 482." (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 480, subd. (b) [emphasis supplied].)

Questions?





Thank you!

Sean Gavin, Administrative Law Judge

Jennifer Mouzis, Criminal Defense Attorney